

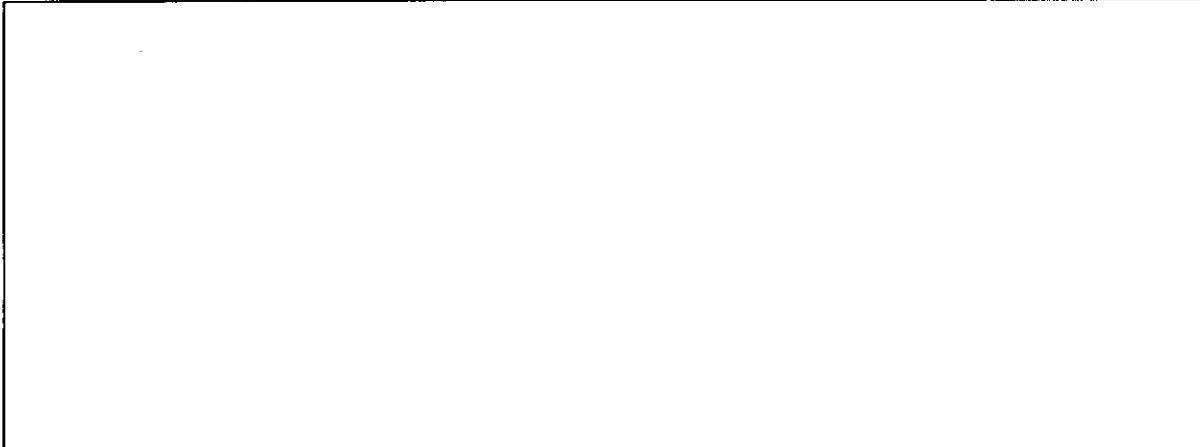
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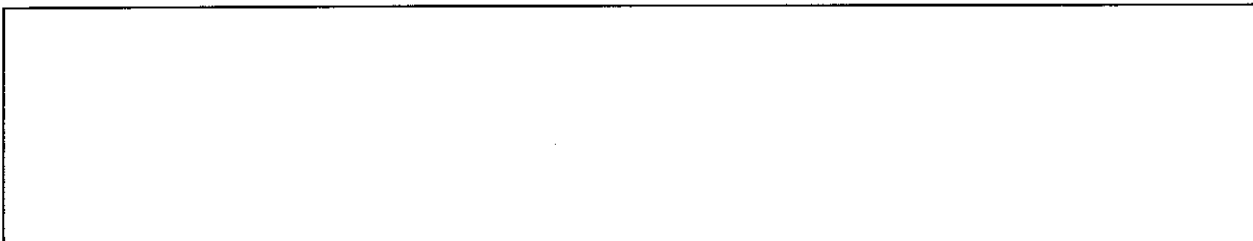
The August 1993 Arusha peace accord requires all foreign forces to depart Rwanda [redacted]

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[redacted] In December 1993, when UN peacekeepers arrived, the French troops (numbering 300 at that time) departed. French troops returned to Rwanda briefly in April to help evacuate their nationals and other expatriates, but left as soon as the operation was completed.

As the killings in Rwanda intensified through April and into May, the UN Security Council on May 17 voted to expand UNAMIR, the UN peacekeeping force, from 450 to 5,500 troops, with a new mandate to help protect threatened civilian populations and facilitate relief efforts. However, efforts to finalize a plan of operation, identify troop contributors, and arrange for logistical and equipment needs have delayed deployment of this expanded force.

With the killings continuing in Rwanda, the French government came under increasing pressure to do something. In mid-June, the French proposed a military intervention to protect civilian populations until the expanded UNAMIR forces arrive. The French plan a multi-national force and want UN Security Council blessing for the intervention. So far, only Senegal seems committed to contributing troops to this effort, although the French report that other countries have expressed an interest in joining the effort. We have informed the French and others that we will support this effort since it offers the fastest available option for bringing real protection to threatened civilian populations; however, we want the force to be multinational and have the UN's stamp of approval.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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